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ABSTRACT

This book analyzes the nature of differences among students in terms of grade levels of academic abilities. How these differences have emerged, and what teachers can do to address such varied abilities in their classrooms are discussed. Chapter 1, "The Nature of the Educational Challenge," examines just how extensive these differences are in specific academic areas. Chapter 2, "Toward an Understanding of Individual Differences in the Classroom: An Expertise Perspective," and 3, "Application of the Expertise Model in the Classroom: The Characteristics of Budding Experts," consider what distinguishes those who thrive in school from those who fail. How such differences emerge is the focus of Chapter 4, "How Did the Gap between Those Who Thrive and Those Who Falter Get So Large". A model of instruction is presented in Chapter 5, "Toward a Three-Dimensional Theory of Mastery: A Tool for Nurturing Independent Learners." Chapter 6, "Creating Classroom Programs that Support Student Mastery: Learning Settings that Provide Appropriate Tasks and Roles for Students and Teachers," introduces pedagogical practices focused toward specific areas in subsequent chapters. Chapter 7, "Planning and Implementing Acquisition Settings," focuses on the acquisition of skills and strategies, and Chapter 8, "Creating Learning Settings with Student Consolidation Roles: Scaffolding Student Practice," considers how to consolidate these skills and strategies. In Chapter 9, "Planning and Implementing Consultation Settings," ways to increase self-direction through consultation are discussed. Chapter 10, "Creating Authentic Settings: Fostering Task Planning and the Application of Skills," describes ways to apply and transfer skills and strategies. Chapter 11, "Applying the Three-Dimensional Model of Mastery To Analyze Selected Educational Programs," examines a number of successful educational programs. Chapter 12, "Lessons from Expert Teachers: Putting It All Together," concludes the discussion with a consideration of expert teachers and their skills. (Contains 9 highlight boxes, 13 tables, 6 figures, and 335 references.) (SLD)